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Special Supplement on China Pakistan Economic Corridor

Making the case for Human Resource Development through Infrastructure Development and Economic Growth – the case of CPEC

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There can be *no sustainability of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) without a parallel China Pakistan Education Corridor*. Economic Growth can only be fueled by human resources enabled by opportunities for learning, technical skills, communication and transactional technologies.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) comprising almost 3000 (2,700)- kilometer highway stretching from Kashgar to Gwadar is a gigantic milestone for Pakistan. The project is an impressive collaboration for China and Pakistan but especially for the latter where it will be a game changer for human development and economic growth. Extending from the Karakoram Highway that links China's Province of Xinjiang with Pakistan's north region, the infrastructure project will be building economic zones along the corridor. CPEC will stretch across all 5 provinces bringing a conservative investment of USD 45 billion over the next 15 years. It will also establish energy and transport infrastructure laying the foundation for an unimaginable supply chain, numerous industry and services clusters and small cities. But none of this can be sustained without giving adequate attention to education, technical vocational and livelihoods skills and a high degree of environmental stewardship and civic responsibility. The overlapping of industry clusters with social capital clusters is a unique opportunity that Pakistan cannot afford to miss and it will not too! The synergies are obvious as are the dividends.

There is much written on the benefits of CPEC and more will emerge as the research on various dimensions deepens. The purpose of this note is to highlight that the government of

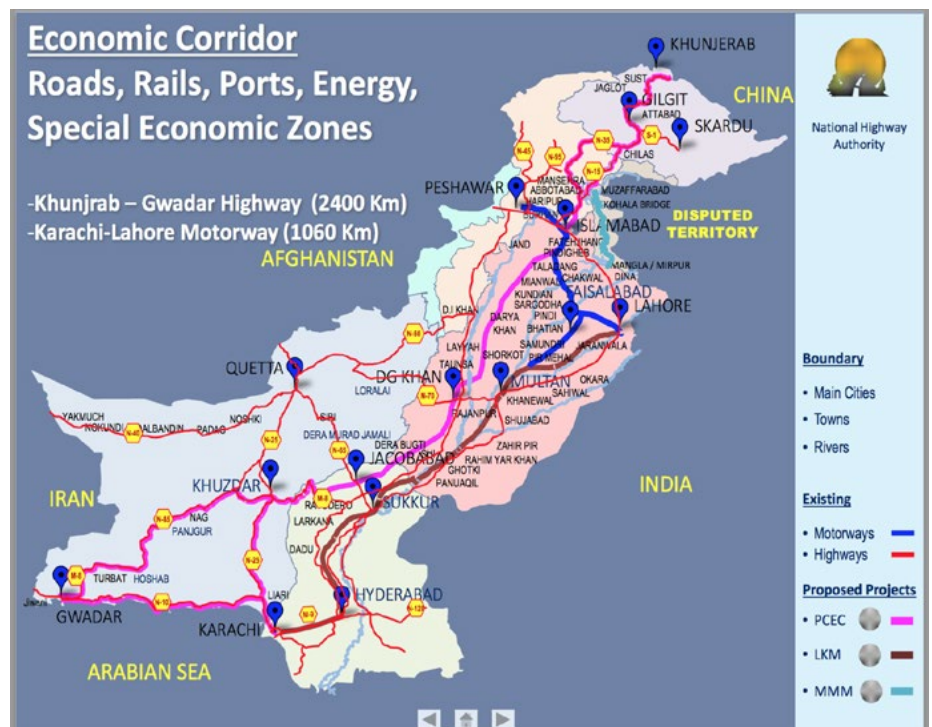
Pakistan (Federal and Provincial) must exponentially focus on all districts along the corridor in general and those which have poor indicators in particular.

The current 19 districts of the CPEC from Gilgit Baltistan to Sindh is an impressive list indeed.

Hunza-Nagar- Diamer (3 districts Gilgit Baltistan); Kohistan, Battagram, Mansehra, Abbotabad and Haripur – (5 districts Khyber Pakhtoonistan); Attock, Mianwali, Sargodha, Layyah, D.G.Khan and Rajanpur (6 districts Punjab); Dera Bugti, Khuzdar, Pungur, Gwadar (4 districts Balochistan) and Jacobabad(1 district Sindh). Of these 19 districts, almost 11 have enrolments less than 80% and learning levels below 50% of grade 5 children tested for grade 2 level competencies with major gender gaps! These girls and boys will be the human capital for CPEC, clearly unable to match with the aspirations of the “economic corridor”. It is imperative

to upgrade the human resources, facilities and opportunities for their development through a dynamic 5 year CPEC district education plan (DEP) for each of the 19 districts spanning programs for age groups from 2 years to 40 years of age in hard and soft skills, an age group comprising 75% of our population. These districts are our invaluable national asset, but remain constrained by major challenges of health, nutrition, poverty, decent jobs, environment and climate change. These multiple fault lines can be addressed comprehensively, attracting public and private domestic financing as well as external financing from China and other development partners. Such an approach presents an opportunity for ‘innovating financing models’ for Pakistan, combining cross-sectoral pooling of resources for infrastructure, services, health, education and skills (hard and soft).

On June 23rd 2015, a letter was written



by the civil society organization Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Nawaz Sharif prior to his participation at the Oslo Education Summit on July 4-5, 2015. The segment which highlighted CPEC is reproduced below to provide a context for why education and economic clusters must go together.

- The China Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) must have a mirror China – Pak Education Corridor that ensures full integration of economic growth and education. This mega initiative will help us develop an education/ human resource cluster alongside the industrial/trade/service clusters across 3000 kilometers pathway. This integration and alignment will support human resource needs for the next 50 or 100 years through formal education/industry partnerships. Sir it is imperative that a multi-sectoral task force is formed under your able chairmanship steering your key team leaders, industry captains, experts, local parliamentarians, youth and citizens to design the architecture of this synergy and details of this initiative. This is no

doubt, a win-win program where the government of China, national and provincial governments and people will join hands with industry. This initiative mobilizing foreign and domestic financing will be a huge additionality for education that must be provided due space in the upcoming new National Education Policy in 2016 in the financing, basic, technical vocational and higher education chapters. <http://www.osloeducationsummit.no/>

After September 25th 2015 when 166 world leaders endorsed the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 at the UN General Assembly including our Prime Minister where each goal is inextricably linked to education for sustainability, CPEC is an opportunity to collaborate across sectors. It can, and must be an intensive model for inter-sectoral planning and constituency building; the general elections are just 2 years away, CPEC could be an accelerator, lifting the political economy of education for sustainability to new and legitimate heights.

DISTRICTS along CPEC: (19 district)

Province Name	Sr. #	District Name
Gilgit-Baltistan	1	Hunza-Nagar
	2	Gilgit
	3	Diamer
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1	Kohistan
	2	Battagram
	3	Mansehra
	4	Abbottabad
	5	Haripur
Punjab	1	Attock
	2	Mianwali
	3	Sargodha
	4	Layyah
	5	DG khan
	6	Rajanpur
Balochistan	1	DeraBhugti
	2	Khuzdar
	3	Gwadar
	4	Punjar
Sindh	1	Jacobabad

For Education Profiles- District Rankings & Data

- www.aseerpakistan.org
- <http://www.pbs.gov.pk/content/pakistan-social-and-living-standards-measurement>
- <http://www.alifailaan.pk/district-rankings>

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